

ACOTE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 30th,
5:30-7 pm; Hartford Public Library

1. **Call to Order** at 5:50 pm by JoAnne Bauer, Chair
2. **Commissioners Present:** JoAnne Bauer, Mark Mitchell, June O'Neill, Russell Williams **Excused:** Bill Upholt
3. **GUEST:** Sara Bronin, Chair P&Z Commission; Professor at UConn Law School, Center for Energy and Environment. Sara detailed some of the work of P&Z that impacts Hartford's Environment: Tracking land use in state; downtown Htfd is mixed use; bus & train station zoned for central business use. Incentives related to land use and for solar energy. Discussion of bike lanes, maps, and bike incentives, esp at large apt buildings. Permits & bonding needed for use of parks. Green Incentives: buildings limited to 10 stories except if green roof included; then 11 stories or if day care included. Seeking to limit impervious land cover. Discussion of Artificial Turf and problems: made of crushed rubber that causes toxic fumes when temperature rises; recent tests indicate 30% of fish died in water with run-off from artificial turf
4. **Minutes** from May 2015 – Agreement to postpone May minutes until next meeting due to need to revise for accuracy.
5. **Treasurer's Update:** Still no help with JoAnne's receipt for \$75 re Green Neighbor's Tent.
6. **Hartford Earth Festival/Green Neighbors Tent RECAP:**
JoAnne and Bill deemed it highly successful, with many participants. Accomplished this year with only 3 weeks planning. Emily Hultquist of CRCOG extremely helpful, as last year. JoAnne wrote an article for the Htfd Courant, available online.

UPDATES

7. **ACOTE Facebook Page: Hartford Environment Commission, CT** is being maintained by JoAnne.
Membership: nothing new
Energy: nothing new to report
Recycling: no report
8. **Legislative: ACOTE VOTE** for Resolution against Artificial Turf use in Htfd.

Mark discussed issues around national EPA – Supreme Court affirmed EPA has right to regulate toxins. House passed a chemical policy reform bill; Senate bill works off the House bill; neither bad, but they pre-empt the CT state law on lead, which is stricter. EPA finalized rules on emission of carbon from power plants. Discussion of green house gas control -- carbon fee or cap & trade.

9. **New Business:** We will discuss annual plans and budget at next meeting in July.
10. **Announcements:** Pope calling attention to Climate Change issues seems very helpful.
11. **Adjournment** at 7:15 by JoAnne

Minutes by JoAnne and June

Next Meeting: July 28; HPL; 530-7 pm

We agreed No meeting in August; Instead on Sept 8th, 2015